

Former "Back To Africa" Head Is Murdered

ON FORD HOUR



DOROTHY MAYNOR
Brilliant soprano who appeared as guest soloist on the Ford Sunday Evening Hour last Sunday. Miss Maynor included in her program two Negro spirituals. She was accompanied by the Ford Sunday Evening Hour symphony orchestra.

'BACK TO AFRICA' OFFICER IS SLAIN

COMMUNITY FORUM

By F. T. LANE

HERE AND THERE

FASHION SHOWS HAVE become to be almost an epidemic but they have turned out to be a number one method for raising money. And why shouldn't they be popular? Every one likes pretty clothes and they like to see others strut in stunning things even if the models themselves don't look the part or have the right personality for the clothes. The last one we attended and liked very much was the St. Edmunds show. It had every thing. Good direction, lovely models, well designed outfits, sufficient light and an arrangement such that every one could see. Not a dull moment for the immense crowd which was not bad looking and on its best behavior. The audience had a good time, the producers got publicity, the models got applause and the church made money. It was a fine cultural experience.

WE WISH SOME one would come along with an idea that would bring a lot of attention to the improvement of our streets, alleys and yards. They need to be improved and glorified. Previous efforts at flower shows and garden exhibits have not attracted enough people. However, the adornment and appearance of the premises in which we live is just as important as wearing beautiful clothes or driving high powered cars.

This ought to be a good place to put in a word for the all-neighborhood tea which will occur in a few weeks. Many neighborhood clubs will have done a great deal to improve their blocks and the public will have a good chance to meet and encourage these leaders.

We hope it won't be long before we can go through any block in the community and not be ashamed. Some day riders on the elevated cars won't be able to point with scorn to the "Negro Neighborhood with dirty dingy porches and filthy back yards" and continue to vote restrictions against us.

THE "GRAND MARCH OF States" program which the Urban League is conducting is quite appropriate to the work which the League has been conducting for the past twenty-five years. The League was born when thousands were marching from the Southern States to take up residence in Chicago.

It has been the principal agency battling to help them become a real part of this metropolitan city.

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The Peace Movement of Ethiopia which figured so prominently in the news of 1938 and 1939 in its fight for the passage of a "Back to Africa" bill was again projected on the public eye—this time violently—when one of its members was slain and two others wounded in a gun battle.

The slaying, police stated, culminated an altercation over another "Back to Africa" bill which it was stated the organization intends bringing before Congress in the near future.

Shooting Ends Fuss Over Bill
Disagreement over the manner in which the matter was being handled led to the fatal wounding of Joseph Rockmore, 3742 South State street, a former president of the organization. Rockmore's wife, Mrs. Lucretia Rockmore, was also shot when Sylvester Washington, 1357 W. 13th street and Rockmore engaged in a gun battle in Rockmore's home last Friday night.

Washington, who will be arraigned in Criminal Court this morning (Thursday) was shot in the leg. He was arrested last Friday in his home. Rockmore died Tuesday in county hospital. He was shot in the abdomen. The inquest will be held at county morgue Thursday (today).

Detectives Clarence Jones and James Brown of the 4th district police, who are conducting the investigation, learned that there had been dissension in the organization for some time. Mrs. M. M. L. Gordon, who in 1938 refuted the claims of a Detroit group that they were sponsors of the "Back to Africa" bill with documentary proof and a copy of the bill which appeared in the Congressional Digest, is president of the Peace Movement of Ethiopia.

Headquarters of the organization was at that time located at 4451 South State street.

Bilbo Efforts Fizzle Out
Mrs. Gordon led a delegation of devotees to the nation's capitol and was present with them when Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi introduced the bill before Congress. Despite the efforts of the group the bill fell through when congressmen walked out during the Mississippi legislator's impassioned presentation in its behalf.

Washington, Detective Jones stated Wednesday to a BEE reporter, went to the Rockmore home to discuss the new bill which the organization is perfecting for its re-introduction in Congress. An argument arose and reached heated proportions. Washington, it was stated, was trying to rout Mrs. Gordon from her position as head of the organization.

Both men drew guns, according to Washington's statement to police. Mrs. Rockmore, the only witness, was wounded in the neck. Her condition was described as serious by county hospital.

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A BETTER PAPER
AT LESS COST

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SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1941

IN TWO SECTIONS: SECTION ONE

SUNDAY CHICAGO BEE

5 CENTS
At All News Stands

SUPREME COURT ENDS RAILROAD JIM CROW

PORTERS WIN \$500,000 IN PAY INCREASES

Decision Of Major Importance

A revised agreement, which culminated negotiations between officials of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Pullman company covering more than five months, won for the Pullman porters wage increases totalling more than \$500,000, it was disclosed this week.

The agreement was signed in the Pullman Building in Chicago on Apr. 18 and affects porters, maids, attendants and bus boys. Champ Carry, executive vice president of the Pullman company and A. Philip Randolph, international president of the brotherhood, signed the document.

Negotiations were at one time broken off because of sharp differences between the management and the representatives of the employees and plans then went ahead to ask the National Mediation Board to step in so that a settlement of the dispute might be reached.

The Pullman management was advised that if after a certain time information was not received by the Brotherhood to the effect that some substantial concessions might be made to the organization that might be satisfactory, the dispute would be referred to the National Mediation Board.

Before the expiration of the time set by the Brotherhood the management stated it was their belief that with an open mind in approaching the problems confronting the management and the union, it was possible to reach an agreement mutually satisfactory. Conferences for negotiation on the proposals submitted by the Brotherhood and the management were then resumed.

After long and hard debates day in and day out, definite progress was reflected in the settlement upon rule after rule, including monetary compensation as well as the clarification and re-

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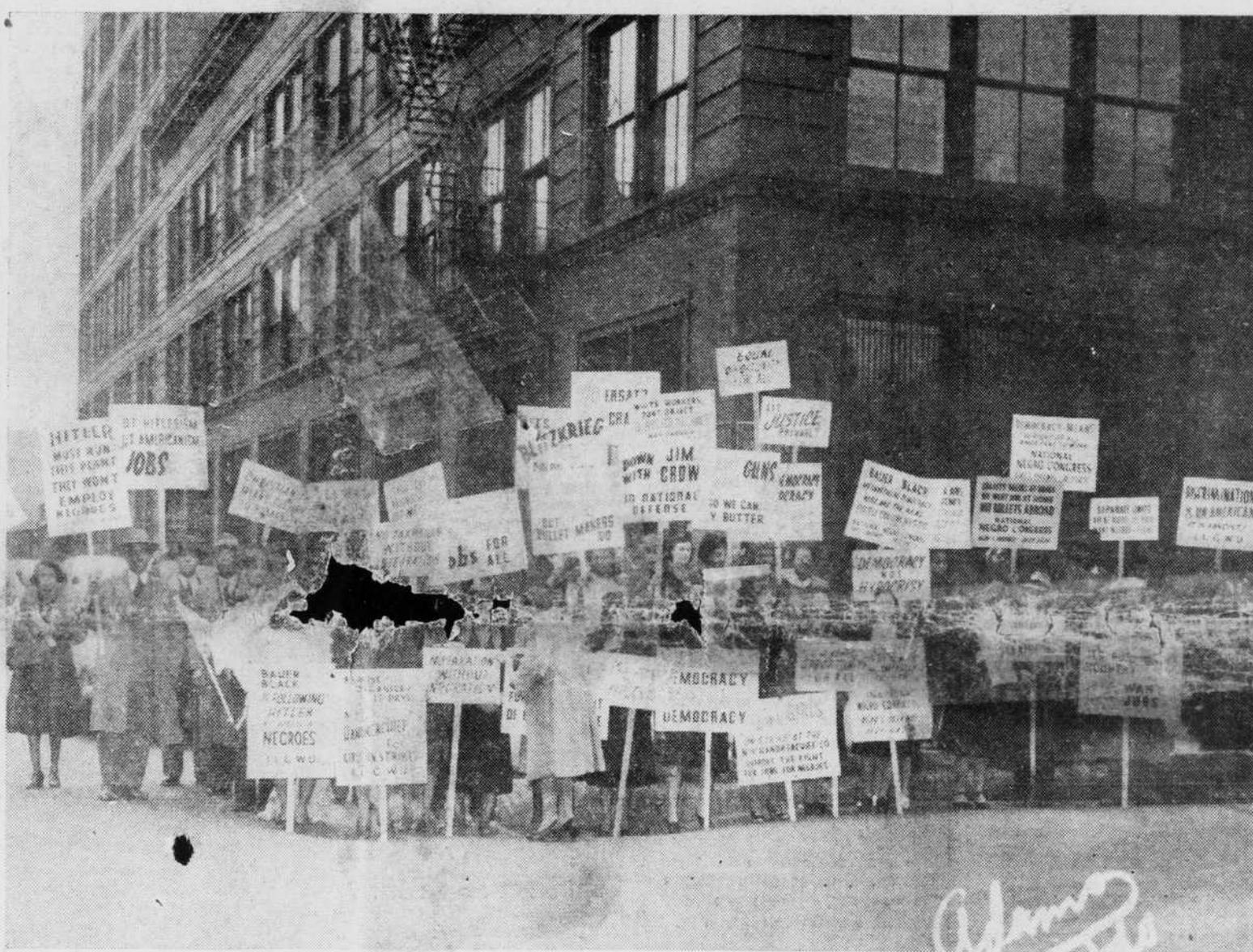
Demand Probe In Death Of Harlem Dancer

NEW YORK, May 1—Because eye-witness accounts and police stories differ about the arrest and brutal beating of Grant O. Paige, Harlem dancer, who died Sunday, April 12, in Bellevue hospital, 48 hours after he had been arrested, the New York branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will make an investigation of the case. The branch's investigation was requested by the sister of the dead man.

In a letter to Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine, Lionel Barrow, branch president, wrote: "It has been some time since this body has had to take issues with the police department concerning brutality. In the best interests of all concerned, we hope we shall never have to do so again."

Mr. Barrow noted that Paige's body had been turned over to the city and suggested that the police department hold it until a thorough investigation can be made, notify the NAACP of the corner's report and of any investigation by the police department.

NAACP PICKET DEFENSE INDUSTRY PLANT



Civic, social welfare and religious leaders joined the jobless when a picket line was thrown around the Bauer and Black company last week in protest of discrimination in industries holding defense contracts. Among them were: Joseph Jefferson, Negro Labor Relations League; Ashby B. Carter, National Alliance of Postal Employees; Ira W. Williams, president of Chicago Branch, NAACP; Leon P. Simpson, Washington Park Housing Committee; St. Clair Drake, National Negro Congress; Lloyd Wheeler, NAACP; Mrs.

Ruth Baler, Fur Workers Union; W. S. A. Jordan, Wm. T. Boles, Metropolitan Men's Community Club; Ishmael P. Flory, National Negro Congress; Frances T. Moseley, Youth Director, NAACP; Rev. D. DeWitt Turpeau, Jr., pastor, Indiana Avenue ME church; Lawrence Andrews, Mid South Side Youth Council, NAACP; Mrs. Eugenia Ivy, National Negro Congress. Twenty girls from the striking workers at the New York Handkerchief company are also shown.

JUBILANT



ATTY. R. E. WESTBROOKS

Brilliantly handled the railroad case for Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, who won a decision from the U. S. supreme court saying that Negroes should be allowed equal Pullman accommodations.

WOMAN KNIFE IN FUSS OVER MAN

When she and another woman disagreed over the attention of a man, Mrs. Sarah Hicks, 1334 South Tarpow street received a laceration of the throat when the other woman, Mrs. Mary Williams, 1441 Hastings street attacked her in the home of a friend at 446 Bowen avenue Saturday night.

The woman was taken to Provident hospital by Leo Nichols, 1437 Hastings, a witness. Her injury was not considered serious.

MITCHELL SAYS HE'S HAPPY; PREFERS TO FIGHT CASE ALONE

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell was in Chicago to deliver an address before the National Association of Postmasters when he learned of the favorable decision of the U. S. Supreme court in his case against the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway.

The court decision will make it mandatory that railroads give equal accommodations to travelers regardless of race when they are traveling from one state to another.

"Naturally I was overjoyed at the verdict," Mitchell told a Bee reporter in his office in the Regal Building.

"This is the first time that a real court action, aimed at the heart of Jim Crow has been filed, properly presented and fought through to a conclusion," the congressman asserted.

"I fought the case single handed," he continued. "Richard Westbrook, that able attorney from this city and I did all the legal work and I paid every cent of the expenses out of my own pocket. The NAACP and a few individuals wished to enter the case after it appeared that I had a chance to win but I was determined to complete the task myself.

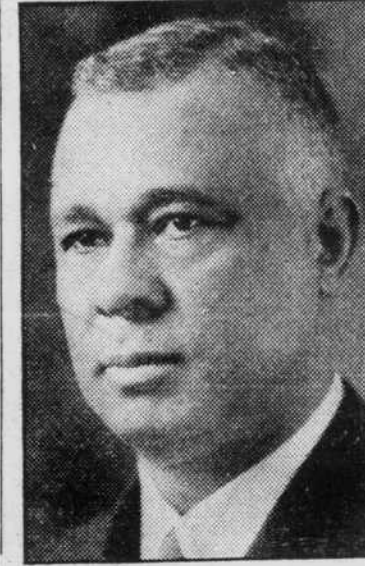
Colored Hostesses To Be Stationed At Illinois Camp

Lieut. George Bowser, chaplain of the Government Ordnance camp at Savannah, Ill., who was in Chicago on business last week and paid a visit to the offices of the BEE, stated that as soon as buildings are completed on the camp site hostesses will be selected and at least two assigned.

About 800 colored selectees are stationed there. The camp is located in the northwest corner of Illinois. These selectees have the responsible task of learning all about how bombs and other ammunition are made. Because this requires a fairly high rate of intelligence there is opportunity for better pay than in regular camps.

Lieut. Bowser advised the women who apply for such positions should not be under the age of 35. He is attempting to arrange for 100 women from Chicago to visit the camp.

WINNER



CONG. A. W. MITCHELL

Congressman Mitchell, lone Negro Democrat from Illinois who this week praised his counsel, Attorney Westbrook, for the successful handling of his suit to end discrimination on railroads and assure equal accommodations for all, regardless of race.

INJURES SELF WHILE INTOXICATED, DIES

When she plunged her arm through a plate glass door, sustaining a deep laceration of the wrist, Mrs. Estelle Collins, 3301 Vernon avenue was so seriously injured that she died ten hours later in county hospital. An excessive loss of blood caused the woman's death. She injured herself while intoxicated last Saturday morning. A verdict of accidental death was returned at the inquest Monday.

In an attempt to prevent a decision involving the Arkansas separate coach law, similar to those in other southern states, the at-

IGNORES SOUTH SOCIAL ISSUE IN DECISION

Ruling Of Major Significance

By ALBERT ANDERSON
WASHINGTON, May 1—(AP) Inferior railroad accommodations to Negroes are illegal and must stop.

This significant decision was handed down Monday by the United States supreme court when it held that Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell of Chicago had been unjustly discriminated against when he was ejected from a Pullman while traveling from Chicago to St. Louis.

The decision says that Negro passengers traveling from one state to another are entitled to the same accommodations as white people receive.

Race Sole Cause
Referring to the removal of Mr. Mitchell from the Pullman and his being forced to complete his journey in a Jim Crow car, Justice Hughes said:

"This was manifestly racial discrimination during an interstate journey and admittedly this discrimination was based solely on the passenger being a Negro. The question is not whether discrimination is forbidden by the Interstate Commerce act but instead is a question of the equality of treatment."

"Denial of accommodations solely on the grounds of race is an invasion of fundamental individual right which is guaranteed against state action by the 14th amendment in view of the nature of the right and of our constitutional policy. It cannot be maintained that discrimination in this was not unjust."

Arguments by Rep. Mitchell and his counsel, Atty. Richard Westbrook of Chicago, were heard by the supreme court on March 13. He told how he had been denied Pullman accommodations and forced to travel second class in a Jim Crow car. Both the ICC and the federal district court for northern Illinois dismissed his case, resulting in an appeal to the high court.

J. Stanley Payne, ICC assistant chief counsel, and Wallace T. Hughes, attorney for the railroads involved, the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, attempted to defend their stand arguing that the demand by Negroes in Arkansas for Pullman facilities was "virtually non-existent."

Demand Small

Solicitor General Francis Biddle filed a brief in support of Mr. Mitchell contending that the Arkansas separate coach law under which the congressman was ejected did not apply to an interstate passenger. He pointed out also that the small number of Negroes asking for first class accommodations did not justify an occasional discrimination against them because of their race.

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